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Student Support Services Under Evaluation by New Task Force

By Natasha Plotkin
NEWS EDITOR

A task force has been charged with reviewing Student Support Services, and it will turn in a report to Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 within the next few weeks.

Student Support Services helps students who are struggling or who have been ill deal with professors and administrators. Clay and faculty chair Thomas A. Kochan established the task force to evaluate the role of the department. The task force will also review how S^3 coordinates with other departments like MIT Medical and the Committee on Academic Performance.

The committee is co-chaired by Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science head William E. Grimson and Vice Chancellor Steven R. Lerman. Two

students, Elizabeth A. Denys '11 and Ying Zhang G, also serve on the committee.

In June, many faculty and administrators expressed concern after Dean of Student Life Chris Colombo demoted S^3 and laid off well-liked S^3 Associate Dean and Co-Director Jacqueline Simonis.

While the outcry may have motivated the creation of the S^3 review task force, Clay said the department had already been marked for review before any of layoffs took place.

"This was not to suggest that S^3 was not doing a good job," Clay wrote in the September/October Faculty Newsletter. "The office has enjoyed strong support from faculty and students. The concerns called out missed opportunities for student support and differing views about S^3's scope, reporting arrangements,

and the coordination of its services with other units."

Denys said the task force will have several issues to resolve.

First, they will have to figure out which department S^3 goes under, and to whom it will report. In 2000, the Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education split into the Division of Student Life and the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education. While Student Support Services was placed officially under the new Division for Student Life, it continued to support students in handling academic issues and serve some functions technically allocated to the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education. For instance, it had the power to change transcripts when excusing absences.

Student Support, Page 11

Cheung Becomes Youngest Council Member and First Asian-American

By Jessica Pourian
STAFF REPORTER

Leland Cheung, a graduate student in the Sloan School of Business, will become the first Asian-American and the youngest member ever of the Cambridge City Council, preliminary results from the city show.

Cheung, who is a student at both Harvard and MIT, ran a bare-bones campaign that emphasized responsiveness and building relationships between the city and its universities. In a field of 21 candidates, Cheung just barely won the last seat on the 9-person council.

In January he will be sworn in and serve for two years, until 2012. He graduates from MIT in 2011. For now, Cheung said he will meet with various city departments and learn their ways.

Cheung promised during his campaign to make meeting with his constituents a priority. He said yesterday that he would try to hold "office hours" every week and will allow people to sign up on his website to talk to him.

He also said that he wanted to increase student involvement in Cambridge government. On his campaign website, some of his ideas are expanding volunteer programs and creating internship programs with the city government.

A delayed count

The race was thrown out of whack this year by incumbent Marjorie Decker, who mounted an aggressive write-in campaign after she missed the deadline to register. Decker spent the most out of all the candidates, \$57,000, and got 1285 #1 votes. Cheung spent less than a

tenth of that, about \$4,500, but still got 754 #1 votes.

Decker's campaign resulted in a flood of write-in ballots, which must be read by hand, slowing down the counting. Counting continues, but preliminary results show Cheung winning.

"It was angst," Cheung said of the counting process, which was drawn out from Tuesday until Thursday due to all the write-in ballots.

Decker, who has been on the Cambridge City Council for years, has "deep roots" in the community, Cheung said.

Cheung raised a total of \$5,000 for his campaign. He said he was pleased with the fact that in today's world of "big money politics" it is still possible to be a politician "without spending a lot of money."

On Election Day, Cheung rose at 4:30 a.m. for some last-minute campaigning. He and his staff spent the entire day calling, e-mailing, and reminding people to vote. It was a "constant rush" Cheung said.

After the polls closed at 8 p.m., Cheung returned home with his staff. To commemorate their hard work, they all threw back a celebratory shot, Cheung said. "We just took time to relax and unwind" Cheung said, before heading to the election commission at the Senior Center in Central Square to watch the counting.

Ballots were brought to the center around 9 p.m. on Tuesday where they were run through voting machines. By 11 p.m., a preliminary vote was released—but those numbers didn't include the 20 percent of ballots that were write-ins.

Cheung came in 9th in the Tuesday

night count. "We were really pleased" with the result, Cheung said.

Hand counting of the ballots resumed the following morning. Cheung attended on Wednesday, but tried to go to class on Thursday. "I couldn't pay attention at all," he said.

Thursday night, preliminary winners were finally announced. Cheung, who came in 9th place, had his name announced last. When it was finally called, he and his staff "exploded into a roar of cheering," Cheung said.

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Beloved Breakfast Joint Finds Itself Sunny-Side Down in Economic Jam



MAGGIE LLOYD—THE TECH

The Friendly Toast, a breakfast diner in Kendall square, was close to closing this past September after some financial concerns. The diner is a popular location on Sundays.

By Maggie Lloyd
STAFF REPORTER

The Friendly Toast has fallen into some unfriendly circumstances.

The funky, hipster-approved breakfast diner in Kendall Square, sister to the Friendly Toast in Portsmouth, N.H., just opened this spring to big crowds and roaring approval. It's usually packed, and on Sundays, the wait can be over an hour long.

But in September, the Toast nearly became the latest casualty of the soggy economy. Business wasn't as hot

as expected, owner Melissa Jasper said, and they wasted over \$50,000 training staff they didn't need. Then there was the emergency over the summer, when the Portsmouth Toast had to get renovated to bring it up to code. That cost over \$80,000.

Melissa and her husband Robert are now over \$150,000 in debt. Banks won't lend to them. They got behind in their taxes. They had to borrow

Toast Troubles, Page 12



Students simulate a Wall Street trading pit during the Intercollegiate Trading Competition hosted by Traders@MIT in the Stata Center on Saturday. Ninety students from nine schools, including MIT, participated in the competition.

In Short

Noam Chomsky will be speaking on "Student Activism and Iran" in 26-100 from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. tonight.

An H1N1 vaccination clinic for pediatric patients of MIT Medical (ages 6 months to 17 years old) will

be held on Wednesday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the E25 atrium.

MITHenge, the twice-annual point the sun aligns with the Infinite Corridor, is predicted to occur Nov. 11–13 around 4:20 p.m.



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WORLD & NATION

Electricity for Americans from Russia's Old Nuclear Weapons

By Andrew E. Kramer

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

What's powering your home appliances?

For about 10 percent of electricity in the United States, it's fuel from dismantled nuclear bombs, including Russian ones.

"It's a great, easy source" of fuel, said Marina V. Alekseyenkova, an analyst at Renaissance Bank and an expert in the Russian nuclear industry that has profited from the arrangement since the end of the Cold War.

But if more diluted weapons-grade uranium isn't secured soon, the pipeline could run dry, with ramifications for consumers, as well as some American utilities and their Russian suppliers.

Already nervous about a supply gap, utilities operating America's 104 nuclear reactors are monitoring President Barack Obama's efforts to conclude a new arms treaty. In the last two decades, nuclear disarmament has become an integral part of the electricity industry. Salvaged bomb material generates about 10 percent of electricity in the United States — by comparison, hydropower generates about 6 percent and solar, biomass, wind and geothermal together account for 3 percent.

Setting Sail into Space, Propelled by Sunshine

By Dennis Overbye

THE NEW YORK TIMES

About a year from now, if all goes well, a box about the size of a loaf of bread will pop out of a rocket some 500 miles above the Earth. There in the vacuum it will unfurl four triangular sails.

LightSail-1, as it is dubbed, will at best sail a few hours and gain a few miles in altitude. But those hours will mark a milestone for a dream that is almost as old as the rocket age itself, and as romantic: to navigate the cosmos on winds of starlight.

Louis Friedman, director of the Planetary Society, announced on Monday that the society, with help from an anonymous donor, would build and fly a series of solar-sail spacecraft dubbed LightSails, first in orbit around the Earth and eventually into deeper space.

The voyages, planned to occur during the next three years, are an outgrowth of a long collaboration between the society and Cosmos Studios of Ithaca, N.Y., headed by Ann Druyan, a film producer and widow of the late astronomer and author Carl Sagan.

In a First, Women Ascend To Iraq's Elite Police Corps

By John Leland

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

As one, the stony faces broke into a free-for-all of kisses, hugs and tears as the 50 women who called themselves the Lioness group became the first female graduates of Iraq's police officer training academy. On a vast parade ground, the women joined 1,050 male classmates on Monday in what American military officers, who advised on the training, called a step forward for the country and its women.

"Some people have a view of Iraqi females that for them to join the police academy is a shame," said Alla Nozad Falih, 22, wearing a star on her epaulet that marked her as a first lieutenant.

Like about half of the group, Falih wore her hair uncovered except by a uniform blue beret, and like 26 of her female classmates, she had joined the academy after finishing law school.

Officers in the national police force hold one of the highest-paying jobs available in Iraq, but also one of the most dangerous, with officers and trainees being a favorite target of insurgents.

Women have long worked in the lower police ranks here, directing traffic or searching other women at checkpoints, but until now they were ineligible for the elite officers' corps.

Don't Forget Ida

By Brian H. Tang

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Although this year's Atlantic hurricane season has been a relatively quiet one, we are reminded in recent days that hurricane season doesn't end until November 30. After going almost two months without a hurricane due to hostile conditions during the heart of the hurricane season, Hurricane Ida provided the late bloomer punch for this otherwise famished hurricane season. Spawning last Wednesday off the coast of Costa Rica, Ida lashed Nicaragua with heavy rain and waves. Unfortunately, 130 people were killed in El Salvador due to severe flooding there. Ida peaked as a category two storm, which was much stronger than anticipated, as it passed just northeast of Cancun, Mexico into the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday. It is projected to make landfall early today near Mobile, Alabama as a tropical storm. The main impacts will be the heavy rains — possibly up to half a foot (15 cm) — over the southeast as it makes a hard right turn and slows down after moving inland.

Although we typically receive rains from the remnants of tropical storms as they make their way up the East Coast, strong high pressure will set up shop on top of us and prevent any moisture from surging northward toward New England from Ida. The result will be quiet and cool weather for much of the week.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy. NW winds 10–15 mph. High 62°F (17°C).

Tonight: Cloudy. N winds 10–15 mph. Low 44°F (7°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy in the morning, then sunny in the afternoon. N winds 10–15 mph. High 52°F (11°C).

Thursday: Sunny. High 54°F (12°C).

Friday: Sunny then increasing clouds late. High 56°F (13°C).

Radical Cleric Tied to Shooting at Base in Texas

By David Johnston

and Scott Shane

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Intelligence agencies intercepted communications last year and earlier this year between the military psychiatrist accused of shooting to death 13 people at Fort Hood, Texas, and a radical cleric in Yemen known for his incendiary anti-American teachings.

But the federal authorities dropped an inquiry into the matter after deciding the messages from the psychiatrist, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, warranted no further action, government officials said Monday.

Hasan's exchanges with Anwar al-Awlaki, once a spiritual leader at a mosque in suburban Virginia where Hasan worshiped, indicate that the troubled military psychiatrist came to the attention of the authorities long before last Thursday's shooting rampage at Fort Hood, but left him in his post.

It is not clear what was said in the exchanges, believed to be e-mail messages, and whether they would have offered a hint at the Hasan's outspoken views or his declining emotional state.

The communications, the subject of an inquiry by FBI and Army investigators, provide the first indication that Hasan was in direct communication with the cleric, who on Monday praised Hasan on his Web site, saying the Army psychiatrist "did the right thing" in attacking soldiers preparing to deploy to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Depending on what is contained in the exchanges, the disclosure of the government's decision not to take any steps against Hasan may provoke criticism of the FBI and Army investigators for missing possible warning signs of an alleged mass killer.

But federal officials briefed on the case said their decision to break off the investigation was reasonable based on the information about Hasan that was compiled at the time, which they said gave no indication he was likely to engage in violence.

The officials said the communications did not alter the prevailing theory that Hasan acted by himself, lashing out as a result of combination of factors, including his outspoken opposition to U.S. policy in Iraq and Afghanistan, and his deepening religious fervor as a Muslim.

Hasan, who was shot by a po-

lice officer and is at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, has regained consciousness and is able to talk, though it is unclear if he has spoken to federal investigators about the shootings. "He is critical but stable," a hospital spokeswoman, Maria Gallegos, said.

Gallegos added that Hasan had come out of a coma on Saturday and has been conversing with his doctors. He was in a coma when he arrived in San Antonio on Friday.

A lawyer for Hasan told The Associated Press on Monday he had asked investigators not to question his client and expressed doubt he could get a fair trial. The lawyer, retired Col. John P. Galligan, said he was contacted by Hasan's family on Monday and was traveling to San Antonio to consult with him.

Many questions remain about Hasan's state of mind, though another revelation Monday added to the complexity of his character. The general manager of a strip club about a quarter of a mile from the mosque where Hasan prayed five times a day, and next door to the gun shop where he bought the pistol used in the shootings, said Hasan was a customer.

Palestinians See Threat to Group If Leader Resigns

By Ethan Bronner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

The collapse of the Palestinian Authority, Israel's negotiating partner, was raised as a possibility on Monday, as several aides to its president, Mahmoud Abbas, said that he intended to resign and forecast that others would follow.

"I think he is realizing that he came all this way with the peace process in order to create a Palestinian state, but he sees no state coming," Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian peace negotiator, said in an interview. "So he really doesn't think there is a need to be president or to have an Authority. This is not about who is going to replace him. This is about our leaving our posts. You think anybody will stay after he leaves?"

Abbas warned last week that he would not participate in Palestinian

elections he called for, to take place in January. But he has threatened several times before to resign, and many viewed this latest step as a ploy by a Hamlet-like leader upset over Israeli and U.S. policy. Many also noted that the vote might not actually be held, given the Palestinian political fracture and the unwillingness of Hamas, which controls Gaza, to participate.

In the days since, however, his colleagues have come to believe that he is not bluffing. If that is the case, they say, the Palestinian Authority, which administers Palestinian affairs in the occupied West Bank and serves as a principal actor in peace negotiations with Israel, could be endangered.

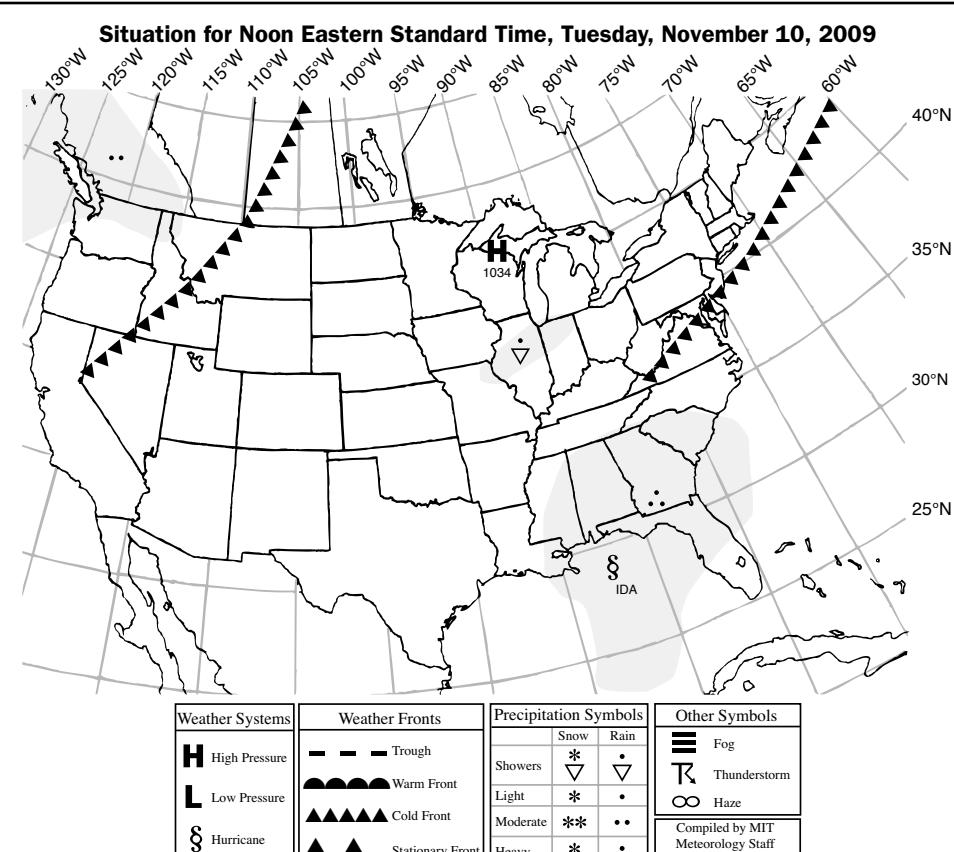
Four top officials made the same point in separate interviews. Abbas, they say, feels at a total impasse in negotiations with the Israeli government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has declined to commit to

a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, including East Jerusalem. Netanyahu favors negotiations without preconditions.

Azam al-Ahmad, head of the Fatah bloc in the Palestinian Legislative Council, said he spoke with Abbas on Saturday and that the Palestinian president was likely to resign in the next month or so. "Nobody will accept to be president under this situation," Ahmad said. "We could witness the collapse of the Palestinian Authority."

Ali Jarbawi, the minister of planning, spoke in similar terms in an interview, asking, "Why do we need anybody to take his place if the whole process is failing? If the authority is going to go on forever, who needs it?" But he suggested that the crisis was aimed at persuading the United States and Europe to become more actively involved in bringing about a two-state solution.

WEATHER



As Investors Race to Stocks, The Dollar Weakens Further

By Javier C. Hernandez

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

If the U.S. economy is getting stronger, why is the dollar getting weaker?

As the stock market surged anew on Monday, and the price of gold marched ever higher, the dollar took its biggest tumble since July. The American currency sank roughly 1 percent against other major currencies, to its lowest level since the financial crisis broke out more than a year ago.

But the seeming disconnect between the value of the dollar and the value of stocks is, in fact, not much of a disconnect at all. A growing belief that wealthy nations like the United States will forge ahead with efforts to revive economic growth is luring risk-shy investors back into the world's stock markets. But with interest rates down and government spending up, the dollar is swooning. Many market participants assert that the currency is weakening with tacit approval from Washington policymakers.

While the faltering dollar will

make everything from French wine to Korean televisions more expensive for American consumers, it will also make American exports more competitive overseas — a lift for multinational corporations like Caterpillar, Intel and Pepsi.

Indeed, shares of multinationals paced a stock market rally on Monday that left some analysts wondering if a new bull market was building. The Dow leapt 203.52 points, or 2 percent, to 10,226.94, its highest level since October 2008. The broader Standard and Poor's 500-stock index rose 23.78 points, or 2.2 percent, to 1,093.08. The Nasdaq composite index was up 41.62 points or 1.97 percent, at 2,154.06.

Sharp gains in Asia and Europe set the stage for the big day on Wall Street. But if the stock market seems volatile lately, that is because it is. Since early September, the Dow has surged or plunged more than 1 percent during 18 separate trading sessions.

But while stocks seem to have regained their footing — the Dow industrials are up 16.5 percent for the year — the dollar, once quite literal-

ly the gold standard of world currencies, is in retreat. The dollar has lost 16 percent of its value since March. It was hovering around \$1.50 against the euro on Monday.

In the "bad news is good news" paradigm of Wall Street, the dollar's fall against nearly all the major currencies reflects the growing belief that major governments will keep interest rates low into 2010 and increase spending to revive growth. A weekend communiqué from the finance ministers of the Group of 20 wealthiest nations offered little support for the dollar: the G20 affirmed its support for keeping stimulus efforts in place but was silent on the dollar's prospects.

Some investors read the statement as a sign that governments would let the dollar weaken more, without intervening in the currency markets.

"It was a deafening silence, another excuse to investors to keep selling the dollar," said Brian Dolan, chief currency strategist for Forex.com. "A lot of it is sentiment-driven, and there the dollar is getting a vote of no confidence."

Leaders in Berlin Retrace The Walk West

By Nicholas Kulish and Judy Dempsey

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERLIN

Chancellor Angela Merkel led a gathering of world leaders in Germany's capital Monday for a celebration of the night 20 years earlier when the Berlin Wall fell.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown of Britain, President Nicolas Sarkozy of France and President Dmitri A. Medvedev of Russia, as well as Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, made a ceremonial procession with Merkel through the Brandenburg Gate, which for decades stood in the no man's land between East and West Berlin.

The anniversary has provided Germans and people around the once-divided continent with an opportunity to reflect upon the successful reunification of Germany and the once-unthinkable integration of countries from the former Warsaw Pact into NATO and the European Union.

"It is also possible to overcome the barriers of our own time, just as we succeeded in bringing this about

in this divided city in 1989," Merkel told the crowd that had assembled in rain to mark the anniversary of the fall of the wall on Nov. 9, 1989, calling it "a day of celebration for all of Europe."

Brown said, "Because of your courage, two Berlins are one, two Germanys are one, and now two Europes are one."

To the disappointment of German leaders, President Barack Obama did not attend but made a video statement, introduced by Clinton. "Let us never forget Nov. 9, 1989, nor the sacrifices that made it possible," Obama said. He added that "there could be no clearer rebuke of tyranny, there could be no stronger affirmation of freedom," than the sight of people tearing down the wall.

The event swung from festive, with appearances by the tenor Plácido Domingo and the rock band Bon Jovi, to the mournful, as when Merkel pointed out the importance of recalling that Nov. 9 was also the date in 1938 of the Nazi-led attacks on Jewish people, businesses and places of worship known as Kristallnacht.

A long line of 1,000 oversized

dominoes were toppled along the route of the wall as a symbol of its collapse in the heady days of 1989 when dictatorships tumbled across Eastern Europe.

Lech Walesa, the former shipyard worker who led the fight against Moscow-backed Communism in Poland, pushed over the first domino, reflecting Poland's leading role in Eastern Europe's campaign against Communism.

Earlier in the day, Merkel walked across the Bornholmer Street bridge, accompanied by Walesa, who later became president of Poland, and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union. In so doing they retraced the steps of the first East Germans, herself included, surging to West Berlin 20 years ago.

It was at the Bornholmer Street crossing point that East Berliners peacefully ended the division of their city. Crowds swelled the former checkpoint after an East German official announced that, with immediate effect, travel restrictions would be eased. Rather than use violence to force the masses of people back, the guards opened the gate.

Skepticism Over Whether Health Bills Really Cut Costs

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

As health care legislation moves toward a crucial airing in the Senate, the White House is facing a growing revolt from some Democrats and analysts who say the bills Congress is considering do not fulfill President Barack Obama's promise to slow the runaway rise in health care spending.

Obama has made cost containment a centerpiece of his health reform agenda, and in May he stood up at the White House with industry groups who pledged voluntary efforts to trim the growth of health care spending by 1.5 percent, or \$2 trillion, over the next decade. But the bills, including one passed Saturday night by the House, are unlikely to meet that goal, analysts say.

Experts — including some who have consulted closely with the White House, like Dr. Denis A. Cortese, chief executive of the Mayo Clinic — say the measures take only baby steps toward revamping the current fee-for-service system, which drives up costs by paying health providers for each

visit or procedure performed.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., a member of the Finance Committee and has worked on health policy, has also sounded skeptical. "My assessment at this point," Wyden said, "is that the legislation is heavy on health and light on reform."

There are a variety of ideas for attacking cost increases more aggressively, including setting Medicare reimbursement rates for doctors and hospitals more rigorously and discouraging workers and employers from buying expensive health insurance policies that mask the true costs of treatment.

Health economists are increasingly advocating a cost-cutting method known as "bundling," in which health providers receive a lump sum to care for a patient with a particular medical condition, say, diabetes or heart disease. The House bill calls for the administration to develop a plan for bundling, while the Senate Finance Committee version of the bill gives it until 2013 to create a pilot program.

Senators of both parties say they will press for more aggressive cost-

cutting measures when the bill comes up for debate. But drastic changes in the health care reimbursement system could cost the White House the support of doctors and hospital groups, who have signed onto the legislation and are lobbying hard to keep the current fee-for-service system from being phased out too quickly.

The debate underscores a fundamental tension inside the White House between cost-containment idealists and pragmatists. The first group includes officials like Peter R. Orszag, the budget director, and Dr. Ezekiel J. Emanuel, the medical ethicist whose brother Rahm is the chief of staff. The second includes Rahm Emanuel and Nancy-Ann DeParle, the director of the Office of Health Reform, who must contend with the realities of getting legislation passed.

"Let's be honest," Rahm Emanuel said in a recent interview. "The goal isn't to see whether I can pass this through the executive board of the Brookings Institution. I'm passing it through the United States Congress with people who represent constituents."

Iran Accuses 3 American Hikers Of Espionage

By Jack Healy
and Nazila Fathi

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Three American hikers who were arrested in Iran this summer after straying across its border with Iraq have been accused of spying, an Iranian state news agency reported Monday.

The Tehran prosecutor told the IRNA news agency that the authorities were pursuing espionage charges against the Americans, who were detained in late July after trekking through the Kurdistan region of Iraq and toward the Iranian border.

News of the accusations drew a quick rebuke from the White House and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Each called on the Iranians to release the hikers: Shane M. Bauer, 27, of Emeryville, Calif.; Joshua F. Fattal, 27, of Cottage Grove, Ore.; and Sarah E. Shourd, 31, of Oakland, Calif.

"We believe strongly that there is no evidence to support any charge whatsoever," Clinton told reporters in Berlin. "And we would renew our request on behalf of these three young people and their families that the Iranian government exercise compassion and release them so they can return home."

She said the United States would press its case for their release through the Swiss government, which represents American interests in Tehran. The United States severed diplomatic ties with Iran after the 1979 takeover of its embassy in Tehran.

Months after Election, Lebanon Forms a Government

By Robert F. Worth

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT

More than five months after this country's parliamentary elections, Lebanon formed a new Cabinet on Monday, ending a gridlock that illustrated once again the myriad dysfunctions of its bitterly divided political system.

The June elections yielded a clear victory for the Western-aligned bloc led by Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri, and a loss for the alliance led by Hezbollah, the militant Shiite movement. But shifting regional realities, local power struggles and the imperative of a coalition government prevented the parties from agreeing on a Cabinet until now.

"I want a government that is true to Lebanon, and not to the image of political and sectarian discord that some see in us," Hariri said as he announced the accord at the presidential palace on Monday night. He spoke of the need to focus on issues like fighting corruption and administrative reform, where there is widespread agreement.

Yet for all the relief surrounding the new Cabinet lineup, the government will continue to face deep rifts that go to the heart of Lebanon's still-unresolved identity, with one camp defining itself through resistance to Israel and the West, and the other aspiring to a more commercial and cosmopolitan role.

Justices Question Patent for Abstract Business Innovations

By John Schwartz

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Supreme Court justices on Monday took up a case that could reshape the realm of what can be patented, and expressed skepticism about giving protection to abstract business innovations.

The justices, including the court's newest member, Sonia Sotomayor, seemed to disagree with arguments advocating a patent for a method of hedging.

The case, Bilski and Warsaw v. Kappos, concerned a business method patent that had been denied to Bernard Bilski and Rand Warsaw, who in 1997 applied for a process that could help institutions like utilities or factories have more predictable energy bills.

The justices peppered J. Michael Jakes, a lawyer for Bilski and Warsaw, with hypothetical patents that they clearly found ludicrous. Justice Antonin Scalia suggested that under Jakes' argument, a patent for "somebody who writes a book on how to win friends and influence people" might be allowed, while Sotomayor suggested a "method of speed dating."

Jakes argued that some of the examples were potentially patentable, though other considerations would be brought to bear by examiners, including the question of whether the method was obvious.

Banks Put Squeeze on Customers Ahead of New Credit Rules

By Andrew Martin and Lowell Bergman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Banks are struggling to make money in the credit card business these days, and consumers are paying the price. Interest rates are going up, credit lines are being cut and new fees are being imposed on even the best cardholders.

One recipient of new terms is Anita Holaday, a 91-year-old in Florida, who received a letter last month from Citibank announcing that her new interest rate was 29.99 percent, an increase of 10 percentage points.

The higher rates and fees reflect the new realities of the credit card industry — the percentage of uncollectible balances has hit a record even as a new law may further limit cards' profitability.

Banks began raising interest rates and pulling back credit lines about a year ago as delinquencies crept upward and regulators discussed reforms. As banks have become more aggressive in making changes, lawmakers have accused them of trying to impose rate increases before many of the new rules take effect in February.

On Monday, the Federal Reserve provided new evidence of the banks' actions. About 50 percent of the banks responding to the Fed's survey said they were increasing interest rates and reducing credit lines on borrowers with good credit scores. About 40 percent said they were imposing higher fees. The banks also said they were demanding higher minimum credit scores and tightening other requirements.

OPINION



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Corrections

An October 30 article on MIT's wrestling team incorrectly reported a team member's name and class year: Glenn Geesman is a member of the Class of 2009, not 2010, and his first name is spelled "Glenn," not "Glen."

An article Friday about the Undergraduate Association and the Student Life Visiting Committee contained several errors. The legislation is 41 U.A.S. 4.3, not 31 U.A.S. 4.3; it is a "resolution," not a "bill," because it recommends an action outside of the UA's control. The Dean for Student Life is Chris Colombo, not "Colomobo."

Letters To The Editor

Student Groups Should Respect Vigil

On my way to class this past Wednesday morning, November 4, I was very humbled to see the POW/MIA vigil occurring in Lobby 10. Stopping to take a moment to watch one of the ROTC members march, I felt a great sense of pride that a school with as much hustle and bustle as MIT was able to take a day to stop and remember those who bravely fight for the freedom we enjoy here at MIT and in the United States.

However, later on in the afternoon, I was appalled to discover that the student groups that occupy Lobby 10 on a daily basis had set up booths and were vocally advertising their

organizations in what should have been a very quiet and reverent setting. I can only imagine how ignorant and disrespectful one must be to blatantly disrupt such a vigil. With all the intellectual power that MIT students possess, I stopped to wonder where on Earth they learned their sense of patriotism and pride.

The lack of patriotism I saw from student groups and bystanders in Lobby 10 caused me to wonder just how much MIT students appreciate what the members of the armed forces represented in the vigil have done for America. The POW/MIA vigil is no less symbolic than the sentinels that continuously guard the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery, and it should have been treated with an equal amount of respect. So to those of you who chose to set up your booths in Lobby 10

on Wednesday: shame on you. Shame on you for being so asinine and ignorant as to not realize what the vigil represented.

Veterans, POWs, and those that are missing in action have fought and are currently fighting for our right to be here at MIT, yet many students failed to show them the respect they so admirably deserve. It is my hope that the ROTC program will again hold this ceremony, as it was a great reminder to me of the blessing that I have to live in America. Furthermore, I hope the next time an opportunity such as the POW/MIA vigil presents itself the students of this great institute will take a moment to contemplate what such a ceremony means and give it the respect and reverence it deserves.

Zeke Willett '12

To Research or Not to Research?

The Risks of Taking Geoengineering Seriously

Erasmus K. zu Ermgassen

"We need more research!" This was the rallying call of climate scientist and MIT alum David Keith '91 at the Geoengineering Symposium held at MIT just over a week ago. This is, of course, the scientist's traditional response when challenged, but when considering research in geoengineering, the risk is that we may be damned if we do and damned if we don't.

Touted as a treatment for climate change, geoengineering is the intentional large-scale manipulation of the climate in order to mitigate the effect of the 9.1×10^9 tonnes of carbon we dump into the atmosphere every year. At the symposium the most discussed strategy was injecting aerosols into the stratosphere to reduce the amount of sunlight reaching earth.

This controversial tool for tackling climate change is receiving increasing amounts of attention. CNN reported on the MIT symposium and the final chapter of *SuperFreakonomics*, Steven

D. Levitt's new book, is dedicated entirely to advocating geoengineering as our insurance policy should global warming really exist.

But geoengineering is in no way a perfect solution, no matter what Levitt claims. Proponents hope that geoengineering will change the climate in an exactly equal-and-opposite way to the climate change induced by rising CO₂ levels, but this is simply impossible. Geoengineering is not the same as a reduction in CO₂ emissions, and so we cannot expect it to have the same effect as a reduction in CO₂ emissions. No matter how much research we do we cannot change this — geoengineering will always be imperfect, and dangerous. The only thing research achieves is assessing if geoengineering can work and what the side effects may include.

Geoengineering research may be the Pandora's box of the 21st century. When have humans ever developed a technology and then chosen not to implement it? Although Geoengineering is treated as our savior from rising sea levels, further biodiversity loss, and the

pain of cutting back on our fossil fuel addiction, its side effects could be equally appalling as the impacts of rising CO₂ levels. The Earth's climate is complex and it is legitimate to ask: How can we try to engineer a system that we do not understand?

Many scientists also worry that talking about geoengineering distracts from the real task of mitigation and adaptation and that it gives politicians room to squirm out of a climate deal this December in Copenhagen. When worrying about the costs of transition to a carbon-neutral economy, the cheap solution of geoengineering certainly is attractive. Mitigation, however, only appears expensive because we currently do not have to pay anything for dumping our extremely harmful pollutants into the environment.

In any case, our lack of understanding of the Earth's climate is such that we may already have passed the "safe" level of atmospheric CO₂ without realizing it. The long memory of the climate system (one third of the CO₂ released today will still be in the atmosphere in 10,000 years time) and the inherent time lag between CO₂ emissions and their effects mean that even if we all stopped breathing today, global climate change may still be inevitable. So, if mitigation is not sufficient alone to avoid catastrophic global warming, geoengineering could be used to address the worst of climate change, although this raises another question: When should we press the emergency geoengineering button?

Meanwhile, as the debate about geoengineering heats up (along with our climate), U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, U.S. climate negotiator Todd Stern, and Lars Rasmussen, the prime minister of Denmark, have all recently admitted that it is very unlikely any legally binding treaty will be signed in Copenhagen. Which means maybe David Keith is right. Now is the time for research.

Erasmus K. zu Ermgassen is an exchange student from the University of Cambridge in the Cambridge-MIT Exchange program.



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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will

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Ryan Normandin

I wrote an article in the October 20 *Tech* in which I lambasted our government's wasteful spending. While much time was spent offering examples of wasted tax dollars, there was little discussion of where I would want my money to go. In addition, what reforms or new programs should be set up to provide more tangible benefits than studying drunk Argentineans? There is a specific area in which the federal government needs to step up, and I hereby propose the Obi-Wan Kenobi Act.

For those who have never seen Star Wars: What have you been doing with your time? There are few things better than the legends of King Arthur set in a futuristic world with lasers and, of course, the Force. In the story, Obi-Wan Kenobi was a Jedi who found Luke Skywalker and trained him to prepare him for his destiny, which was to get his hand cut off, meet furry creatures, and overthrow the entire Galactic Empire.

Consider, for a moment, what would have happened had Obi-Wan not trained Luke? Luke would have grown up under the repression of the evil Empire and done nothing about it. In fact, he would not even have known that he could do something about it. Luke was not like everyone else; he had abilities and talents that had to be specially cultivated in order for him to develop his full potential. It was only with the guidance of Obi-Wan, who was experienced in the area of working with Jedi, that he was able to become the Awesome Magical Warrior who saved the galaxy.

What do magical warriors saving the galaxy have to do with reallocation of government funds? Simple: it is imperative for the future of America that the federal government develops a well-defined program for gifted education and ensures that it is effectively implemented at the state and local levels. The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) asserts that there are 3 million gifted children in America. When the Russians launched Sputnik, the U.S. poured funds into math and science education, including into programs for gifted students. However, it has been over 50 years since Sputnik and the sense of urgency has lessened. While our awareness of the urgency has been desensitized, the urgency itself is no less; the United States is far

The Obi-Wan Kenobi Act

behind Japan and China in math and science education, and many of our best and brightest people leave to work elsewhere. We are falling behind, and that is unacceptable.

Currently, states and localities control gifted programs. This leads to a wide range of discrepancies in the quality and extensiveness of these programs. For example, while 12 states provide over \$10 million annually for gifted education, 12 spend less than \$500,000. If MIT's fraternities can spend that in one Rush week, surely the federal government can step in and provide annual funding. Furthermore, several states devolve many of the responsibilities pertaining to gifted education to local governments. Only 29 of the states require that localities follow a state definition of giftedness. Only 9 states require localities to recognize gifted students from other localities, which may have different definitions of "gifted." This is a cumbersome and difficult process for families who are moving from a town where their child is considered gifted to another where they are not. Even when "giftedness" is clearly defined, only 4 states require that teachers have some sort of gifted training. This is doing a great disservice to our country as a whole.

There are some who oppose gifted education, and they do so for a variety of reasons. First, it is difficult to create one definition to describe the wide range of gifted students. A gifted student is not necessarily someone who studies hard and gets As. The fact that they are studying suggests that they are not gifted, but talented.

The Maryland Council for Gifted and Talented Children has an excellent list that compares talented children to those who are gifted. Some of these comparisons include: while a talented student knows the answers to the questions, the gifted student will ask questions of the teacher. While a talented student listens well and learns easily, a gifted student displays strong opinions and emotions and is often bored in class, having already known, sometimes intuitively, the answers. Other characteristics include a willingness to challenge authority, a subtle, sophisticated sense of humor, and the ability to see patterns, trends, or connections that others do not pick up on. Some gifted students will often accomplish high academic achievement with little effort while others will suffer bad grades due to a lack of challenge, lack of interest, and boredom with

what they view as basic or intuitive subject matter. With abilities so different from the average student, is there any question that there is a need for a comprehensive, federally mandated gifted program? Apparently there is.

Some argue that gifted children will naturally excel, so there is no need to pay extra attention to them. This is not true; if the student is not being challenged, he may view school as a waste of time and get bad grades. Further, why would anyone not want a gifted child to be all that they have the potential to become? If they do, that potential is not being reached because of the lack of challenge and adversity.

Other opponents take the sad and flawed view that our society often encourages today: everyone is gifted. Nothing else explains why youth sports leagues hand out seven different first place awards so "no one's feelings will be hurt." The fact of the matter is that everyone is not gifted. Everyone has the potential to do great things through dedication and hard work, but that does not make a person gifted. Those who claim that everyone is gifted are not only ignorant, but sad proponents of the societal norm that requires everyone be protected from knowing that some people are capable of different things than others! Hurt feelings, like adversity, happen; the solution is not to avoid them but to overcome them.

On a similar note, there are those who will claim that gifted programs are "elitist." If that is the case, then I claim that the NFL along with every other sports league is "elitist." And the Olympics are the most elitist organization to ever be created. After all, these leagues accept only the best athletes in their field and offer them a challenge that they would be unable to find anywhere else, an opportunity to develop their full potential. Gifted programs seek to offer scholars the academic equivalent of these sports programs. If the Olympics are elitist, then elitism has somehow become equated with people who work to develop their particular talents.

Another argument is that the gifted students are the "role models" who the other students look up to. This is also untrue; the average student is more likely to emulate another average student than one in a different league of classes and competency than themselves. One more question that often comes up is whether AP courses are gifted programs. They are not: AP

courses are simply college level courses taught in high school. As most APs are offered to juniors and seniors, such courses are not true challenges to gifted students.

In addition, some schools have developed a policy of increased admission into AP courses (which I strongly oppose) in order to provide every student the opportunity to take the AP test in the subject and earn college credit. All this does is further "dumb-down" the program, transforming it into a higher-weighted honors course. AP courses are designed to provide a broad range of college material to high school students a year or two before they would otherwise take those classes. As such, they are not geared toward nurturing gifted students with deeper and more meaningfully work.

The facts above are clear: There is a huge degree of confusion over what gifted programs are, why they are needed, and what standards they should be held to. I thus propose the Obi-Wan Kenobi Act.

This act would require every teacher in America to undergo a gifted training program. It would provide proportional amounts of funding to each state from the federal government. The federal government would define giftedness and specify the process by which gifted children are to be recognized. It would require the government to recognize that there are no definitive "giftedness tests," and that it is much easier to recognize a gifted student than to define a gifted student. It would test different models of gifted education, determine which is the most effective, and run with it.

As another great mentor remarked, "With great power comes great responsibility." We have the power to bring out the greatest potential of all students, and we have the responsibility to do so. Likewise, these students have gifts. I am wagering that that is why they are referred to as gifted. They also have a responsibility to give back to their community and use their gifts for the betterment of mankind. In Star Wars, Luke was the last Jedi, the last hope for the galaxy; in America, we have 3 million young people offering the hope and salvation from all the challenges that face our great nation today. We cannot afford to let this opportunity pass. It is time to demand that the government provide not only an adequate, but an exemplary education to each and every citizen of the United States.

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CAMPUS LIFE

Brouhaha Rhythm

The Breakfast Double-Feature, Part 1

By Michael T. Lin

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

The idea of the “frivolous conversation about everyday subjects”, experienced by all and popularized by sitcoms, remains one of the few ways in which we can connect with new acquaintances and sometimes complete strangers without being invasive or sketchy. Just yesterday, I briefly discussed Cheetos and dental hygiene with the lady next to me in line at the pizza parlor. Several months back, it was carbonated drinks with Ingrid the Shaw’s Cashier. Last week, the *pièce de résistance* was an interchange at length over bagels and cake on the subject of breakfast food, with cereal (specifically cold and served with milk) as the centerpiece.

The main contention of my argument is, simply, that the toroidal cereal shape, better known as the “loop” or “O,” is the ideal shape for cold cereal. Obviously, such a highly controversial statement will not go unchallenged, and bears justifying. On one end of the spec-

trum, we have the spherical “puff,” while on the other, we have the random 2-D surface, the “flake.”

Momentarily setting aside Mini-Wheat and Honeycomb-shaped aberrations as well as other factors such as marshmallows or dried fruit, my “research” (anecdotal experience) shows that the puff (having the smallest surface area-to-volume ratio) absorbs milk the slowest. Consequently, if I’m in a hurry to get out the door in the morning, biting into a recently-soaked puff encounters a hard, scratchy core that tears up my gums rather painfully and impacts my entire day. Puffs also have the distinction of being perhaps the most dangerous cereal for a toddler to have stuck up his/her nose, so much so that an “Everybody Loves Raymond” episode makes mention of the ailment and its remedy, the “Crunch and Blow.”

Flakes, on the other hand, soak up milk far too quickly and are generally soggy by the time I get to the bottom of the bowl, no matter how quickly I eat. A further inconvenience is that

due to their flat shape, flakes tend to spatter poured milk out of the bowl and all over anything that happens to be on the table — a nearby problem set, for example. (Whether cereal or milk goes into the bowl first is, as far as I’m concerned, not up for debate. Milk first? Breakfast heresy.) Yes, careful pouring down the side of the bowl can alleviate spattering, much as careful pouring down the side of a cup can prevent soda from foaming over, but

then again, most of the time you’re lucky to be even eating breakfast to begin with, let alone taking your sweet time.

Which brings us, at last, to the loop. I haven’t crunched the numbers on its surface area-volume ratio, either for Froot Loop-sized or Cheerio-sized pieces, but it doesn’t take too

large a sample size to realize that loops are superior. They hold milk well due to the center hole, but also maintain a more broadly-distributed crunchy center than a puff that ensures variety of texture without hurting your gums. I’ve also found that at typical rates of consumption, a reasonable level of crunchiness is maintained until the end of the bowl. I can’t even begin to count the number of times I’ve repoured into half a bowl of milk with loops. Beautiful, beautiful loops.

Now, if you’ll excuse me, I should probably go eat now. Somewhat ironically, I’ve spent so much time this morning thinking and writing about breakfast that I’ve forgotten to stop and eat it. Stay tuned next week, as the breakfast-based saga continues.

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in W20-557!

This week’s column covers the upgrade of Athena clusters to Debathena from Athena 9.4, and details some of the main new features that are now available.

What's up with all these Debathena machines around campus?

This past summer, IS&T upgraded all the public Athena machines around campus from Athena 9 to Debathena. Debathena, a SIPB project that is now a collaboration with IS&T, is the newest version of Athena. While Debathena packages are available for any current Debian-based distribution, IS&T selected Ubuntu for the public workstations. The current version — Ubuntu 9.04 — allows us to incorporate software as recent as 2009, and it adds some long-requested features to Athena and makes some programs much faster.

How does Debathena improve over Athena 9.4?

Ubuntu 9.04, on which the Debathena cluster deployment is based, is a much more recent operating system,

especially compared to Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4, on which Athena 9.4 is based. Support for USB devices and CD-ROMs has been vastly improved — removable devices now appear on your Desktop, with no need to become root or use the *attach-usb* program. Users are now able to install software packages automatically, even on cluster machines (a feature requested for many years). Debathena workstations in the clusters include many more locally installed applications, such as OpenOffice.org and the GIMP, a powerful photo editor similar to Photoshop. Having these applications installed locally should provide a noticeable speed increase.

My login takes longer on Debathena cluster machines than on Athena 9.4. Are you doing something about that?

Yes. Right now the login process is noticeably slower on public Debathena machines (private machines are unaffected), and we are working to resolve this issue as soon as possible. The primary cause of the slowness is the login chroots or “sandboxes”, which provide users with the ability to install any software they like for the duration of their login session. The ability to do this has been requested many times, and we’re pleased to be able to offer it now. We don’t accept the slowness in the present implementation as a trade-off — we’re trying

a number of different solutions to address the speed issue and we hope to have a fix released to the clusters soon. For quickstations, we recently changed the configuration to remove the login chroots and deny root access, which brought login times back down into the 5–10 second range. That lets us keep quickstations quick while we work on a complete solution for both quickstations and the clusters.

Why couldn't we have just continued using Athena 9.4 in the clusters?

Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4, on which Athena 9.4 is based, is four years old and will stop receiving bugfixes this fall. In another two years, even security fixes will end. Moving to Ubuntu with Debathena delivers newer software with improved features, and because Debathena is designed to be easy to upgrade to new upstream releases — it’s handled eight of them and counting — it ensures we can continue to receive security updates and other important bugfixes, as well as take advantage of the latest features and newest software, for the future. For more information on Debathena, please visit <http://debathena.mit.edu>.

To ask us a question, send e-mail to sipb@mit.edu. We’ll try to answer you quickly, and we can address your question in our next column. You can also stop by our office in W20-557 or call us at x3-7788 if you need help. Copies of each column and pointers to additional information are posted on our website: <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/>

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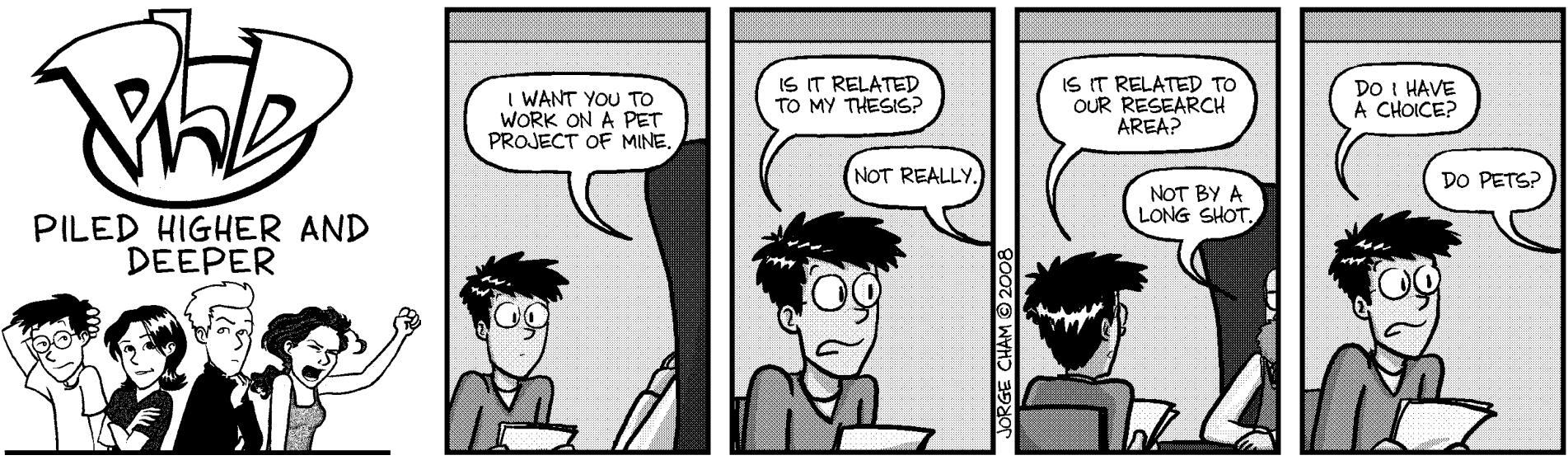
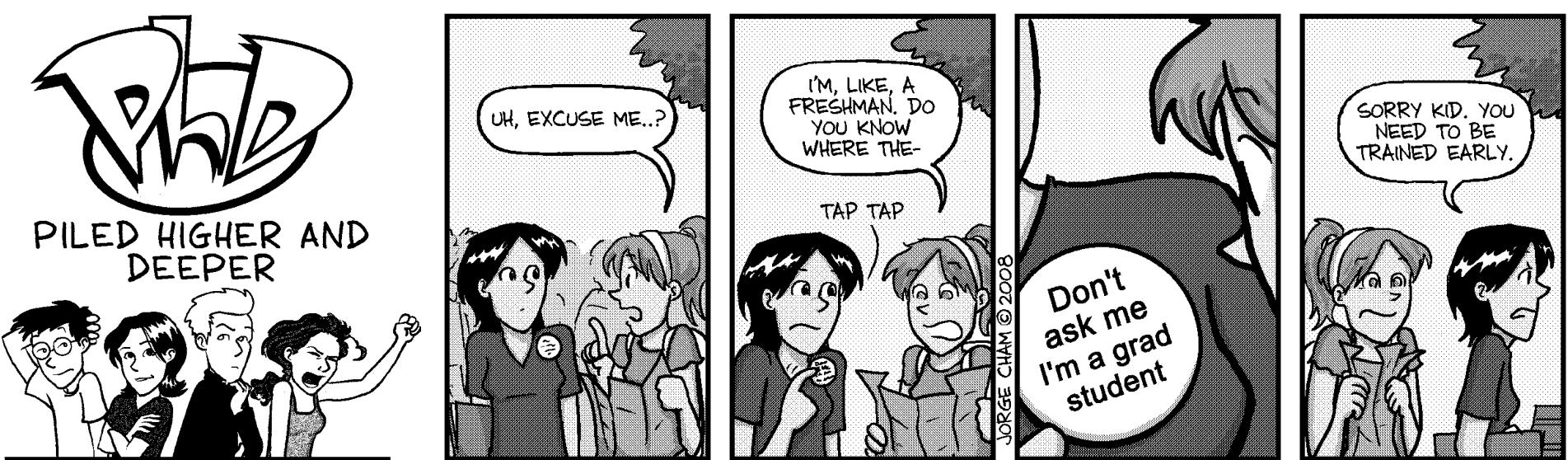
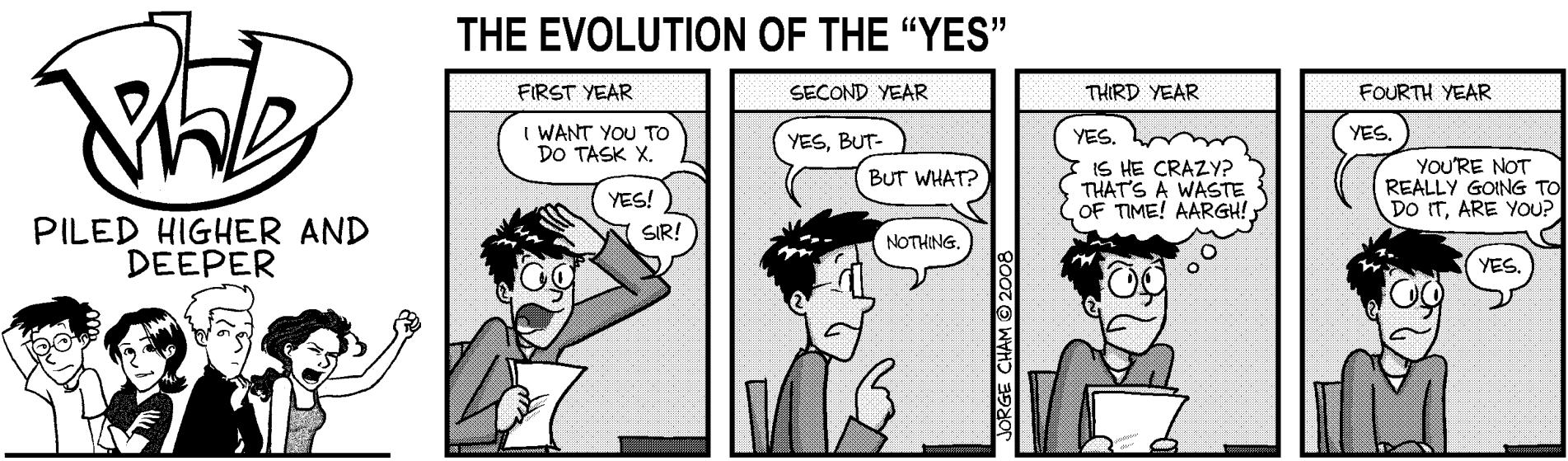
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Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



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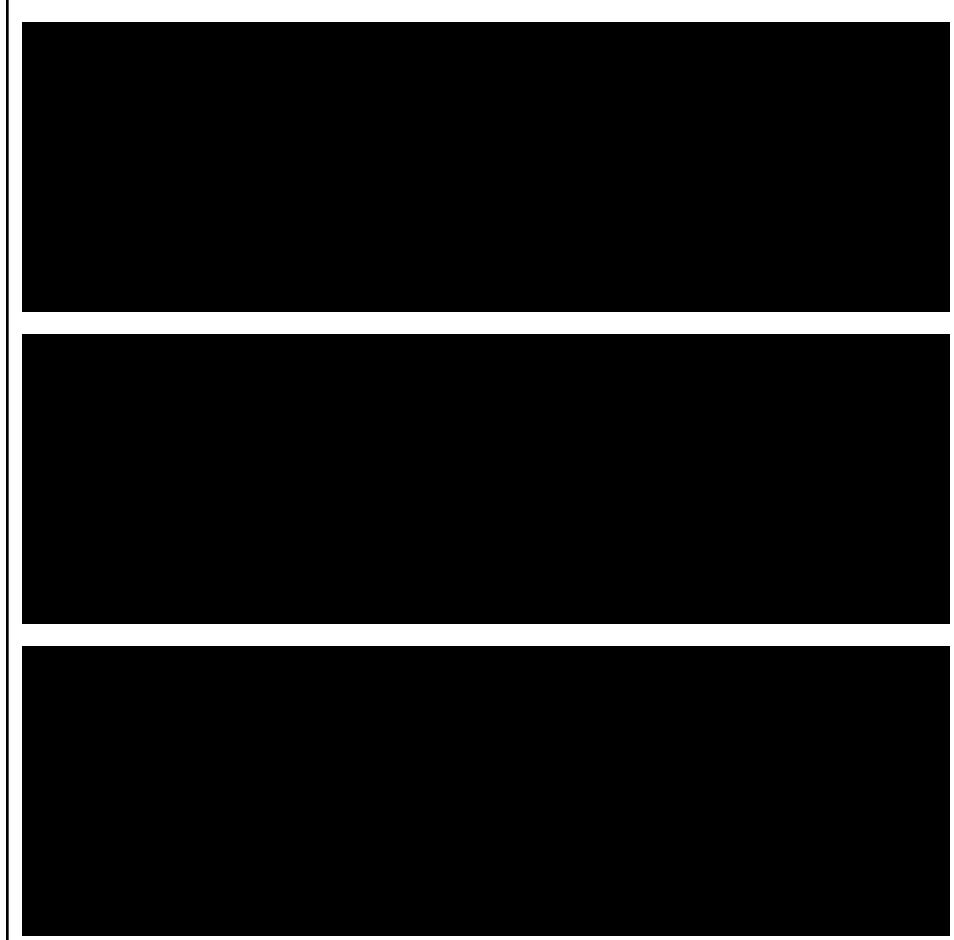
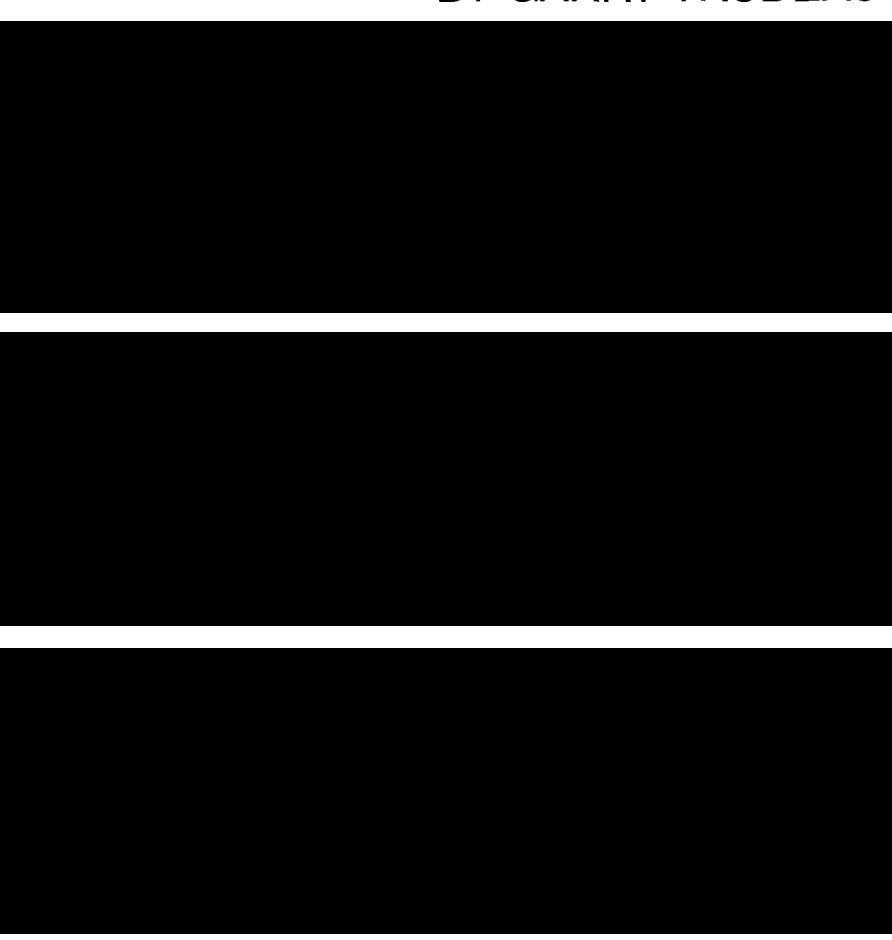
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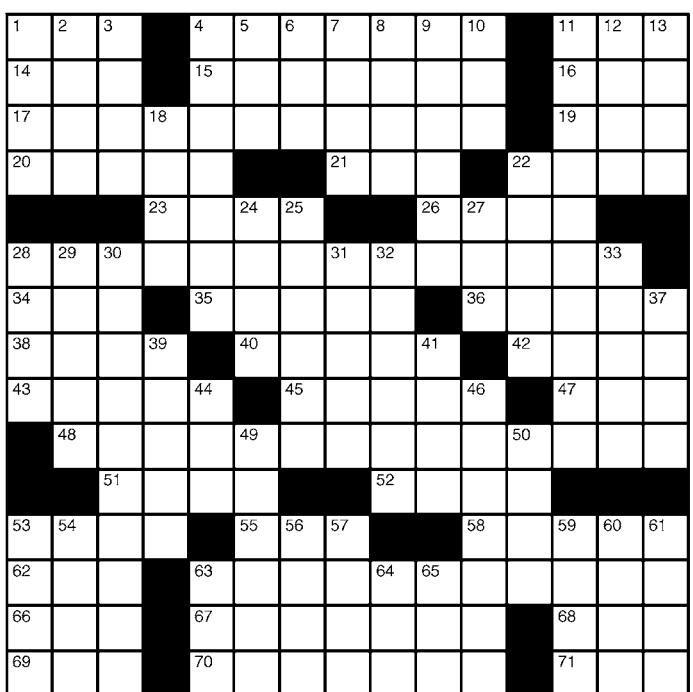
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 38 Skedaddled
 40 Basketry willow
 42 Appear

43 Conical home
 45 Actress Braga
 47 Exist
 48 Skipping stones game
 51 __-a-porter (ready-to-wear clothing)
 52 Splinter group
 53 Interstate's tree-lined bro
 55 Primary color
 58 Flavoring seed
 62 Roman crowd?
 63 Simple rules
 66 K.C. winter hrs.
 67 Apple pie order?
 68 Comprehend
 69 Cigar dropping
 70 Turns red
 71 Mammal's triplets?
DOWN
 1 Attaches

2 " __ the Explorer"
 3 My word!
 4 Christie and others
 5 Adult male
 6 Up-to-date
 7 Part of R.E.O.
 8 Sleuth Wolfe
 9 Unexpected, yet fitting
 10 Small viper
 11 Chophouse offering
 12 Quiver with rage
 13 With competence
 18 Ticket sales
 22 Nabisco favorites
 24 Within: pref.
 25 Black Sea port
 27 Org. of Flyers
 28 Skillful
 29 Lacking a guide
 30 Stay informed about

31 Sanders of football and baseball
 32 Overturns
 33 Cubic measure
 37 Iowa State city
 39 Condemn
 41 Take the bus
 44 __ out a living
 46 Video-game parlors
 49 Leisurely walk
 50 Element fig.
 53 Print measure
 54 __ and tell
 56 Jacob's twin
 57 Beaver projects
 59 "Picnic" dramatist
 60 Plant part
 61 Ballpark figs.
 63 Smidgen
 64 Japanese drama
 65 Ike's initials

**Easy Sudoku**

Solution, page 10

			4					
4	9			5	1	8		
8	1		9	2			6	
					2		5	
3	4					7	8	
5		2						
1			2	9		8	3	
		6	7	3		4	9	
				8				

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Hard Sudoku

Solution, page 10

9	8				4		7	
2						1	6	3
		1						4
4	3					8		9
		5			1		8	
8			4				7	3
3							2	
	4	8	2					7
		9		6			8	5

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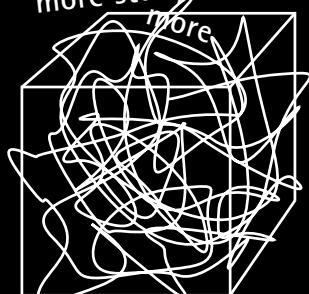
WEB/MIT/EDU/INVENT/STUDENT



LEMELSON-MIT PROGRAM

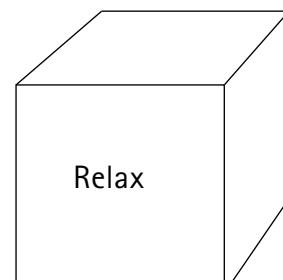
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problem sets
boyfriend
girlfriend
pressures
workload
roommates
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more studying



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Earth Share



The boss, played by Zachary B. Barryte '13, leads the opening scene during the Musical Theatre Guild's production of *Side Show* in La Sala de Puerto Rico. The show will play three nights this weekend, Nov. 12-14, at 8 p.m.

Solution to Hard Sudoku

from page 8

9	8	3	6	4	2	7	5	1
2	7	4	9	5	1	6	3	8
5	6	1	8	3	7	9	2	4
4	3	2	5	7	8	1	6	9
7	9	5	3	1	6	8	4	2
8	1	6	4	2	9	5	7	3
3	5	7	1	8	4	2	9	6
6	4	8	2	9	5	3	1	7
1	2	9	7	6	3	4	8	5

Solution to Easy Sudoku

from page 8

6	2	7	4	8	3	5	9	1
4	9	3	6	5	1	8	2	7
8	1	5	9	7	2	4	3	6
9	7	8	3	1	4	2	6	5
3	4	1	5	2	6	9	7	8
5	6	2	8	9	7	3	1	4
1	5	4	2	6	9	7	8	3
2	8	6	7	3	5	1	4	9
7	3	9	1	4	8	6	5	2

Solution to Crossword

from page 8

A	D	E	A	M	M	O	N	I	A	T	B	A
D	O	G	G	A	O	L	E	R	S	B	O	B
D	R	A	G	A	N	D	D	R	O	O	I	L
S	A	D	A	T	E	S	O	N	Y	O	N	L
T	H	E	O	I	N	R	E					
D	U	K	E	A	N	D	D	U	C	H	E	S
E	N	E	S	T	E							

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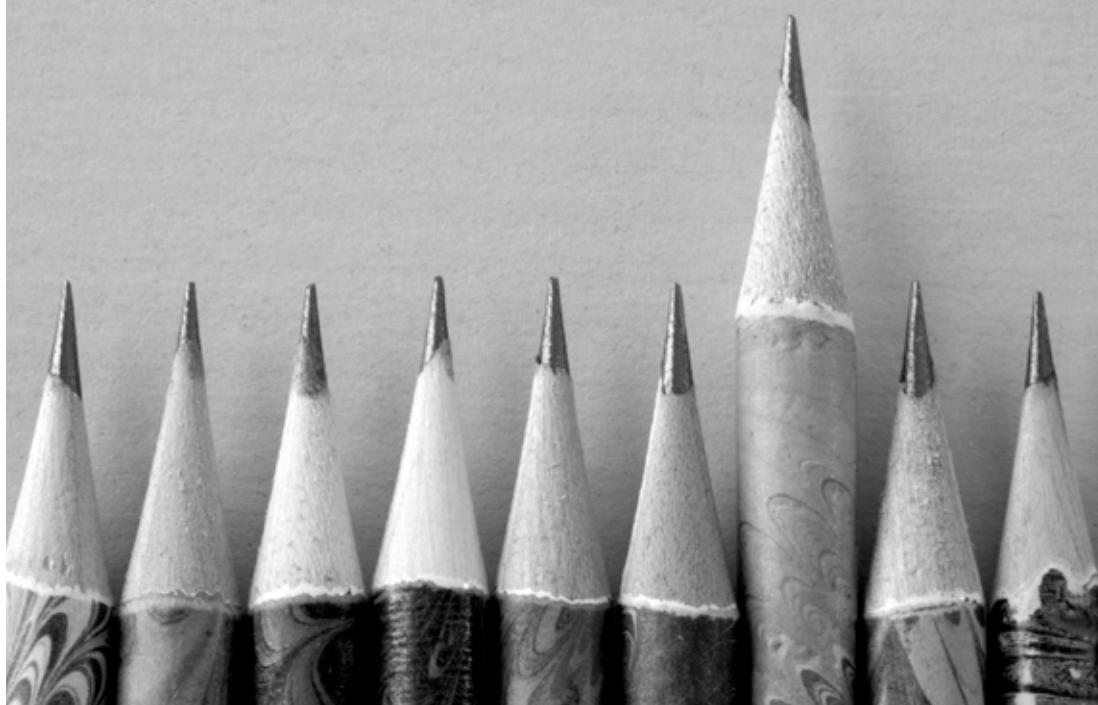
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Simonis Layoff Over The Summer Was a Controversial Move

Student Support, from Page 1

Other topics of inquiry include S^3's work with graduate students and the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education.

The task force will not address any concerns related to specific personnel or any budgetary line items, said Denys. The report is due to the Chancellor's office, but the committee is pushing for some of the less sensitive parts to be public, Denys said.

In its research, representatives of the committee met with Simonis, every dean currently working in S^3, and other relevant members of the MIT community, including Senior Associate Dean for Students Barbara A. Baker, to whom S^3 currently reports.

Summer changes

Ssimonis was one of 18 Division of Student Life employees laid off by Colombo as part of the budget cuts. Faculty were especially upset to see her go, because they felt she had played a central role in S^3.

Colombo had also lowered S^3's rank within the Division of Student life, to the objection of many faculty, who worried that would damage S^3's ability to serve students.

"Many faculty members were concerned that if S^3 were brought lower down in the reporting structure it will be seen as a less important unit within MIT," said Denys.

Changes to the S^3 reporting structure and services were rolled back in response to faculty complaints. All layoffs remained permanent.

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Breakfast Hot Spot Struggling Despite Huge Crowds



The Friendly Toast promotes its specials on a whiteboard last Sunday around lunch time. Customers praise the diner for the quality of its big pancakes and coffee.

Toast Troubles, from Page 1

\$110,000 from Melissa Jasper's parents. The State of New Hampshire put a lien on their house.

Through all of this, Jasper has resisted laying off staff. "I just got really creative with scheduling, so that no one lost more than one shift," she said.

She figures with a little juggling and a bit of luck, the Toast will make it through the winter. After all, people just adore the Toast. "We have survived solely because we had so many people already familiar with the Toast," Jasper said.

Thousands of fans gush about it on Facebook. On its fan pages, people rave about the "pancakes the size of your head" and the great coffee. Some refer to the Toast as "the best place on earth." Some simply say: "I

love you."

When Jasper and her husband opened the Cambridge location this spring, they were startled by far-flung reach of the Toastmania. "This totally surprised me — that Cambridge was full of people who'd driven to Portsmouth for breakfast with us," Jasper said.

The Toast's Economic Trouble

The problems began earlier this year at the restaurant's original Portsmouth location. After an A/C unit installation by the landlord, city inspectors discovered the establishment's electrical work was wired illegally. Then, a plumbing inspector found multiple code violations, which Jasper claims was the responsibility of the original builders of the space more than three decades ago.

Jasper's landlord didn't offer to

help pay for the required renovations. He told her she should move out.

Jasper couldn't bear to do that. The Toast has been a Portsmouth landmark for 15 years.

In late July, Jasper made a desperate plea on the Toast's Facebook page. "We are drowning in bills! These two locations are both thriving in this economy, since we are affordable, but I am going to lose both if I can't catch up soon."

Only a few months after opening the Toast in Cambridge, Jasper was concerned both locations would have to close after losing \$83,000 in savings to the renovations.

On top of that, the business lost \$50,000 to training after overestimating the amount of staff needed for the Cambridge location.

"This was particularly difficult because the recession meant no one



MAGGIE LLOYD—THE TECH
Diners waited over an hour to have lunch last Sunday at The Friendly Toast in Kendall Square.

being close to MIT.

"My favorite thing in the whole world is *The New Yorker*, and in every other issue they seem to have an article about amazing, groundbreaking work done [at MIT]."

Two MIT students currently work at the Toast, and Jasper said she wants to leverage some of the bright minds nearby. "I hope to be able to draw on the brain power of the school in the future," she said.

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Football Will 'Raise The Bar' Next Year

Engineers Finish Season with 1-8 Record

Football, from Page 16

streak up the sidelines for a score.

The Cardinal and Grey followed that score with another, the final of the game, as Johnson found fullback Cameron R. Brown '11 on a check-down route, but a broken tackle and a burst of speed turned the pass into a 14-yard score up the sidelines. A botched snap on the PAT allowed holder Doyle to find Michael J. Yurkewich '11 wide open in the end zone for 2 points.

The Engineers were lead by Stephen L. Yablonski '11 on the ground, who took over for Brown after the concussion, finishing the game with 66 yards on 15 carries. The Cardinal and Grey defense was lead by Christopher C. Weaver '12 and Peter W. Gilliland '12 who lead the team with 16 tackles apiece, along with Marcel B. Sanchez '12 with 9.

After the game, Head Coach Chad Martinovich had words of encouragement and motivation, speaking of pride and love for the departing seniors. His overall message, however, was that this season was the foundation upon which to build for the rest of the year, using the losses as motivation to work hard in the off-season, stay committed and buy into the new program, and set a goal for next year.

The players understand Martinovich's message, and seem encouraged by what he has put in place and how the program will flourish under him. "We have a lot of talent coming back next year to replace the graduating seniors' spots," says Jared M. Darby '12. "The offseason program will be great to improve that talent and raise the bar from this year. The offseason program will also help with injury prevention, as injuries had a large influence on this year's team."

The Engineers finished the season 1-8, with a 1-6 record in the NEFC Boyd Division.

SCOREBOARD

Field Hockey

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mount Holyoke College	0
MIT	2

Sunday, November 8, 2009

Springfield College	2
MIT	4

Football

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Endicott College	27
MIT	15

Women's Soccer

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Wheaton College	0
MIT	1

Sunday, November 8, 2009

Springfield College	0
MIT	1

Women's Volleyball

Friday, November 6, 2009

U.S. Coast Guard Academy	0
MIT	3

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Wellesley College	3
MIT	0

Men's Water Polo

Saturday, November 6, 2009

Harvard University	5
MIT	7

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Brown University	8
MIT	6

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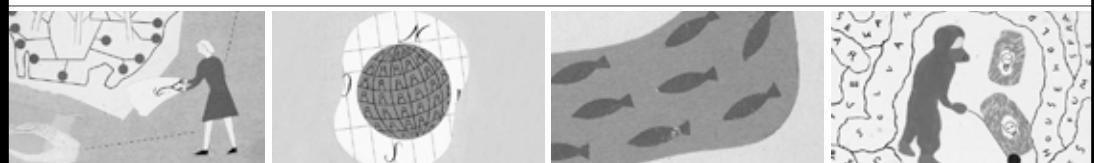


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SPORTS

Football Closes Season With Loss to Endicott; Looks Ahead to Next Year

By Russell Spivak

TEAM MEMBER

On their Senior Night, the Endicott College Gulls held the MIT Engineers to 107 yards of total offense after All-American Captain DeRon M. Brown '10 was knocked out of the game with a concussion after rushing for only three yards on nine carries. The game was won by Endicott, 27-10.

The game began as a back-and-forth defensive struggle as both defenses held their opponents scoreless in the first quarter. The Gulls, however, appeared on the scoreboard first with a one-yard dive into the end zone and an extra point to go up 7-0. On the ensuing possession, quarterback Kyle T. Johnson '11 was stripped in the backfield and Endicott's Kevin

Eagan returned the fumble 44 yards to give the Gulls a 14 point lead going into the half.

The home team received the kickoff to begin the second half. Quarterback Dan Leary methodically drove the ball down the field, leading to an 8-yard quarterback keeper to go up 20-0, but a blocked PAT by Aaron M. Fittery '13 was able to keep the deficit at 20.

Leary lead the Gulls to a 27-0 lead two possessions later, after MIT had turned the ball over. The quarterback connected with Tim Vaill on a six-yard touchdown pass.

The following possession, though, saw the Engineers' comeback attempt, as Brian P. Doyle '11 faked a handoff to Phillip D. Hunt '12 on the kick return to fool the defenders and

Football, Page 15



UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

No upcoming home events.



Elizabeth L. Stavely '11 dives during the Batterman Relays on November 7.



Gabriel V. Blanchet '13 faces off against John May of Bryant University in Saturday's ice hockey game. Even though Blanchet scored two goals, the Engineers lost 8-7 against their conference rival.

Field Hockey Beats Springfield, Will Advance to NCAA Tourney

By David Zhu

SPORTS EDITOR

The MIT Field Hockey Team captured the NEWMAC Championship this weekend, shutting out Mount Holyoke 2-0 in the semifinals and defeating Springfield 4-2 in the final. With the wins, the Engineers improved their season record to 17-4 — a program record — and earned the second conference title in program history.

In the semifinal matchup on Saturday against Mount Holyoke, neither team was able to score until late in the

second half. In the 59th minute, Anna H. Teruya '12 scored on an assist by Molly E. McShane '13; just under ten minutes later, Kameron L. Klauber '12, scored on a breakaway to seal the victory. Goalie Keri A. Dixon '11 led the Engineer defense with two saves.

In Sunday's final against Springfield College, MIT got out to a quick start behind goals by Teruya and Danielle C. Smith '11, and had a 2-0 lead by the 11th minute. A deflection by Klauber on a hard shot by McShane gave the Engineers a 3-0 lead, which they would take into halftime.

MIT kept their momentum in the second half, and took a 4-0 lead on a

goal by Barker off a penalty corner. Springfield would mount a comeback, outshooting MIT 11-5 in the second half. MIT's defense held on, however, allowing only two goals for the 4-2 win.

In the tournament, Keri A. Dixon '11 had 11 saves; on offense, Barker led MIT with three goals, while Klauber, Teruya, and Smith had two goals each.

As conference champions, MIT will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament. The first round of the tournament will be held on November 11, at a location to be determined.

Women's Soccer Clinches NEWMAC Championship with Pair of 1-0 Wins

By David Zhu

SPORTS EDITOR

The MIT Women's Soccer Team won its first-ever NEWMAC Championship — and its first conference title since 1989 — this weekend, defeating Wheaton College in the semifinal and defending champions Springfield College in the final. The Engineers won both games with a score of 1-0.

In the Saturday semifinal against Wheaton, Alisha D. Lussiez scored

in the 20th minute off a blocked shot and rebound by Emily Kuo '13. The Engineers' defense, led by Meghan S. Wright '13's 11 saves in goal, was able to shut down Wheaton the rest of the game, denying the Lyons their 11th consecutive appearance in the NEWMAC title game.

In the tournament final, Springfield controlled the game early and outshot MIT, but Wright made 14 saves and kept Springfield off the scoreboard. Both teams had opportunities to score in the second half, including a shot by Lussiez off the

goalpost, but an assist by Connie Y. Park '13 to Lussiez in the 56th minute provided the lone score of the game.

The Engineers did not allow a single goal in the tournament, outscoring their opponents 6-0. Lussiez led MIT with three goals and an assist, while Park and Jean E. "Liz" Theurer '10 had two assists apiece.

With the win, MIT will make its first appearance in the NCAA Division III tournament, which begins November 12th.

Fencing Opens Season with 'The Big One'

MIT Team Captures Two Medals, Five Top-Eight Finishes in First Meet of the Year

By Rangarajan Nadadur

TEAM MEMBER

The Men's and Women's Varsity Fencing teams had their first tournament of the year, "The Big One" this past weekend hosted by Smith College.

The traditional opening meet of the season brought a diverse field of competitors from more than 21 different schools, including several NCAA Division I and II opponents.

Individual competitions were held in six different events: men's and women's foil, épée, and sabre. Fencers competed in a round robin pool, the results of which were used to seed a single-elimination bracket. The MIT fencers had a strong showing, with two fencers finishing in the top three of their events, and five more top 8 finishes.

Women's Team Captain Stephanie Shin '10 led the way in Women's Épée coming in 6th place out of 71 fencers

in the event. Sophomore Kirsten S. Hessler '12 finished in 10th, while Sophie M. Monahan '11 finished in the top 32, coming in 20th.

The strongest individual performances of the day among the women came from Cordelia S. Link '10, who took the bronze medal in Women's Foil over 78 fencers. Jenna G. Caldwell '11 finished in 10th, and Julia A. Hopkins '12 and Lindley C. Graham '10 made the top 32, finishing in 19th and 21st respectively.

Women's Sabre had the strongest squad performance of the day, with three top 8 finishes. Molly A. Kozminsky '12, Elena A. Tatarchenko '11, and Annabeth Gellman '13 came in 6th, 7th and 8th respectively out of 69 competitors. Laura A. Evans '10 made it to the round of 32, finishing in 29th.

The Men's Épée team faced stiff competition, with rookie Jackson Crane '13 leading the way in 40th place and senior Javier J. Ordonez finishing in 62nd.

The men's foil had a strong overall squad performance, with five top 32 finishers among 82 fencers. Sophomore Daniel Levine '12 made it to the quarter finals before losing to the eventual gold medalist to end up in 7th place. Benjamin N. Nield '12 and Richard C. LaGrandier '11 finished in the top 16, at 12th and 14th respectively. Alexander E. "Sasha" Siy '13 and Chrisantha J. "Chris" Perera '12 made the round of 32, coming in at 26th and 32nd respectively.

Men's Team Captain Rangarajan D. Nadadur '10 captured a bronze medal in Men's Sabre, recording the best finish for the men's team by coming in 3rd place out of 76 fencers. Vinayak Ramesh '11 made the round of 16 before falling, and Maximilian L. "Max" Brand '11 and Isaac P. Businger '11 took 37th and 39th respectively.

The team has its first team meet of the season in two weekends at Brown University where they will face several conference opponents.

Water Polo Takes Third at Northerns

The MIT water polo team won a pair of games over the weekend to secure a third-place finish at the Collegiate Water Polo Association Northern Division Championship. The Cardinal and Grey beat the host Crimson, 7-5, in the opening round and followed that up with a win over Iona in the third-place contest on Sunday. Tech's lone loss was an 8-6 setback at the hands of eventual division champion, Brown.

The Engineers will now advance to the Eastern Championship for the third time in the last four years. The tournament, which will be hosted by MIT, begins on Friday, November 20.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

Women's Volleyball Falls in NEWMAC Final

MIT Women's Volleyball advanced to the NEWMAC finals with a 25-19, 25-20, 25-21 victory over the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Friday, but lost to Wellesley in straight sets, 25-14, 25-13, 25-19, on Saturday. Both matches were back-and-forth, and with the teams exchanging points and leads. The Engineers were able to pull out the win against Coast Guard, but fell short to Wellesley.

With the victory, Wellesley advances to the NCAA tournament; MIT will hope for an at-large bid, which will be announced November 9th.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff